

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 EAE-00 /088 W

-----221708Z 041342 /43

P 221222Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 283

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG HONG

DET 4 AFSCF MAHE ISLAND SEYCHELLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 136

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, SE, CH

SUBJECT: PRC EMBASSY ESTABLISHED IN SEYCHELLES

REF: A) VICTORIA 099

B) VICTORIA 103

1. SIX PRC DIPLOMATS (NAMES AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA SUBMITTED REFTEL A) ARRIVED SEYCHELLES MARCH 17 TO ESTABLISH EMBASSY. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES LI FANG-PING AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE MET BY PROTOCOL OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS OF SEYCHELLES' CHINESE ASSOCIATION, SOCIAL ORGANIZATION WHICH REPRESENTS COUNTRY'S ESTIMATED 500 ETHNIC CHINESE. ON MARCH 21, PRC CHARGE MADE OFFICIAL CALLS ON PRESIDENT MANCHAM AND PRIME MINISTER RENE.

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2. OFFICIAL IN PRESIDENT'S OFFICE WHO ATTENDED MEETING WITH MANCHAM TOLD ME CHINESE PROPOSED ESTABLISHING EMBASSY COMPOSED OF TWENTY PRC NATIONALS. ACCORDING CHIEF OF SPECIAL BRANCH, GOS SECURITY COMMITTEE AT HURRIEDLY-CALLED MEETING LATER SAME DAY, DETERMINED THAT CEILING OF SEVEN BE IMPOSED ON ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. (LIMIT REPORTEDLY

ARRIVED AT BECAUSE FRENCH EMBASSY CURRENTLY HAS STAFF OF SEVEN FRENCH NATIONALS).

3. FOR TIME BEING, PRC EMBASSY OPERATING OUT OF TWO ROOMS ON TOP FLOOR OF DOWNTOWN PIRATE'S ARMS HOTEL. CHINESE HAVE REQUESTED FIVE ROOMS BUT CURRENT SHORTAGE OF HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS WILL DICTATE CRAMPED CONDITIONS FOR AT LEAST NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. PRC DIPLOMATS HAVE RESUMED SEARCH FOR PERMANENT OFFICE AND HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS BEGUN AT TIME OF SEYCHELLES INDEPENDENCE IN JUNE 1976. ACCORDING TO REAL ESTATE AGENT, THEY HAVE SHOWN INTEREST IN VACANT LOT ON OUTSKIRTS OF VICTORIA WITH VIEW TOWARD EVENTUALLY BUILDING COMPOUND.

4. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO MADAGASCAR ALEXIEV SCHEDULED TO VISIT SEYCHELLES MARCH 22-24. VISIT, WHICH WILL BE FIRST SINCE HE REPRESENTED USSR AT INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, CONSIDERED LOCALLY TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ARRIVAL OF PRC MISSION.

5. ALTHOUGH PRC MISSION PERSONNEL HAVE THUS FAR MAINTAINED VERY LOW PROFILE, BANNER HEADLINES IN LOCAL PRESS AND GIANT SIZED FLAG ATOP THEIR HOTEL HAVE FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THEIR PRESENCE AND FANNED SPECULATION ABOUT LONG-TERM RAHIFICATIONS FOR SEYCHELLES.

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